

***THRIOCERODES ANTHICIDES* (NEWMAN), COMB. N.
(COLEOPTERA: CLERIDAE): AN AUSTRALIAN, NOT SOUTH
AFRICAN, SPECIES**

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Abstract

Corynetes compactus Westwood is recognised as a junior synonym (syn. n.) of *Pylus anthicides* Newman, which is transferred from the South African genus *Thriocera* Gorham to the endemic Australian genus *Thriocerodes* Wolcott & Dybas, resulting in the combination *Thriocerodes anthicides* (Newman), comb. n.

Introduction

For the past 135 years, the clerid beetle *Pylus anthicides* Newman has been regarded as a South African species, with the original Australian type locality considered an error. This is now known not to be the case.

Primary type specimens of *Pylus anthicides* Newman (Fig. 1) and *Corynetes compactus* Westwood (Fig. 2), respectively held at the Natural History Museum, London (BMNH) and the Oxford University Museum of Natural History (OUMNH), plus reliably identified specimens of *Globoclava quadrimaculata* (Chevrolat) (from BMNH: Fig. 3), were morphologically examined using a Nikon SMZ-1500 stereo dissecting microscope.



Figs 1-3. (1) primary type of *Pylus anthicides* Newman from BMNH; (2) primary type of *Corynetes compactus* Westwood from OUMNH; (3) *Globoclava quadrimaculata* (Chevrolat), BMNH specimen from Malvern, South Africa.

Taxonomy

Newman (1842) described *Pylus anthicides* Newman from Port Phillip, Victoria (then part of New South Wales). Lacordaire's (1857) unjustified (see Article 32.5.1 of ICZN 1999) emendation of the spelling of Newman's species to '*anthicoides*' was followed by Gemminger and Harold (1869), Gorham (1878), Blackburn (1900), Lohde (1900) and Schenkling (1903, 1910). Gorham (1878), expressing doubt over the validity of the Australian type locality of Newman's species, transferred *Pylus 'anthicoides'* to his new genus *Thriocera* Gorham, while synonymising with it *Pilus quadrimaculata* Chevrolat from South Africa. Schenkling (1903), in his treatment of world clerid genera, followed Gorham, though with apparent reservation. Corporaal's (1950) catalogue (using the correct spelling '*anthicides*') reflected Gorham's doubt of the Australian type locality. More recently, Opitz (2012) returned *Pilus quadrimaculata* to full species status (designating it the type species of *Globoclava* Opitz), without commenting on the status of *Thriocera anthicides*.

Examination of the primary type specimen of *P. anthicides* (in BMNH) confirmed Opitz's removal of *P. quadrimaculata* from synonymy and revealed that Newman's species belongs to the endemic Australian tarsostenine genus *Thriocerodes* Wolcott & Dybas, which can be defined by the following character states: eyes well separated and coarsely faceted; terminal palpomeres securiform; procoxal cavities posteriorly open; elytra compact, punctuation lacking internal nodules; tibial spur formula 1-2-1, tarsal pulvillar formula 3-3-3. Additionally, the type specimen of *Corynetes compactus* Westwood, 1853 (in OUMNH) was studied and found to be a junior synonym (**syn. n.**) of *Thriocerodes anthicides* (Newman, 1842), **comb. n.**

Thriocerodes anthicides is, so far, known only from the type locality of Port Phillip (Melbourne), Victoria, plus recently identified material from South Australia (SA: 35.608°S 138.261°E, Deep Creek NP, Boat Harbour turnoff, 12 Mar. 2011, Monteith and Turco. Barkspray on eucalypts. 18819. Australian National Insect Collection, Canberra) and New South Wales (NSW:31.737°S, 149.993°E, Coolah Tops NP, 8Feb. 2010, Monteith and Turco. Barkspray on eucalypts, 19553, Queensland Museum, Brisbane). Both recent specimens were collected by pyrethrum spraying of trunks of living eucalypts. The specimen from Deep Creek National Park (Voucher No: COL1686) has been submitted to a molecular phylogeny of Cleridae project being undertaken by the author and collaborators in Australia and the United States.

Correction to Opitz (2012)

The draft manuscript of Opitz's (2012) review of tarsostenine genera was

submitted for peer review prior to the recognition that *Pilus quadrimaculata* Chevrolat was not a synonym of *Pylus anthicides* Newman. Several substitutions of the word 'anthicides' for 'quadrimaculata' were made throughout the manuscript but the following was not amended prior to publication: page 11, first line beneath the Figure 3 caption – '*Globoclava anthicides* (Newman) (new combination)', should read '*Globoclava quadrimaculata* (Chevrolat) (new combination)'.

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